

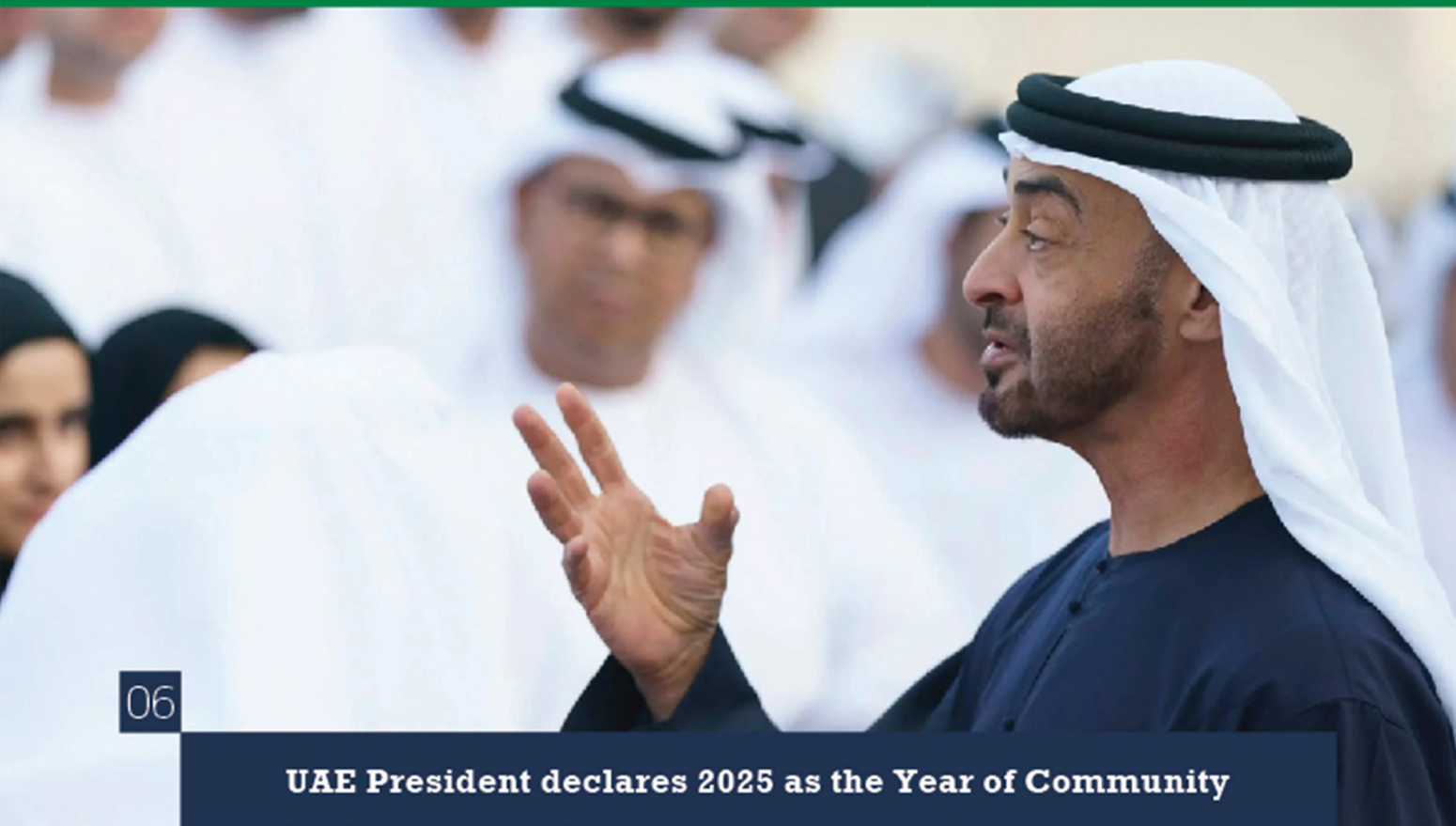


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creating green communities for a better tomorrow



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champions lifelong learning

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Emirates Appreciation Award For The Environment

Together for a
green home





Chairman's Message



Prof. Mohammed bin Fahad
Executive Editor

The announcement by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, declaring 2025 as the 'Year of Community', resonates deeply with the core values upon which this nation was built. It is a timely and insightful recognition of the vital role the community plays in our collective progress, prosperity, and enduring strength. The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment wholeheartedly supports this initiative and believes in its transformative impact on the UAE's sustainable future.

Our founding father, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, whose environmental vision inspired this Foundation, understood that a nation's true strength lies in the collective efforts of its people. The Year of Community serves as a powerful reminder of this foundational principle and is an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to building an inclusive and cohesive society, working in harmony with our environment.

A framework for collaborative action, this initiative is a unique platform to address the complex environmental challenges we face. By fostering stronger community engagement, we can promote environmental awareness, encourage sustainable practices at the local level, and empower individuals to become active stewards of our natural resources and work towards shared environmental goals.

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment is committed to working closely with all stakeholders to ensure the success of this initiative. We will actively support programs and activities that promote community-based environmental action, education, and awareness to leave a lasting legacy of environmental sustainability and community empowerment.

The impact of this initiative will extend far beyond 2025. The Year of Community is a call to action for all of us to come together, celebrate our shared commitment to a healthy environment, inspire a new generation of environmental leaders, and build a stronger, more sustainable, and more resilient UAE.

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PUBLISHED BY



Executive Director

Prof. Mohammed Bin Fahad

Advisors

Dr. Hamdan K. Al Shaer
Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif

Marketing

marketing@zayedprize.org.ae

Editor

Sangeetha K
editor@zayedprize.org.ae
mail@zayedprize.org.ae

Design Director

Nash - Intoto Marketing
Communications
editor@zayedprize.org.ae



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UAE President declares 2025 as the Year of Community

The UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan has declared 2025 as the Year of Community as part of a national initiative to promote unity and inclusion across society.

Under the slogan "Hand in Hand", the national initiative reflects the leadership's vision to foster a united and empowered community.

In a post on X, the UAE President said, "I am pleased to announce 2025 as the Year of Community in the UAE. Hand in hand, we will work to strengthen social bonds, foster shared responsibility and unlock potential for inclusive and sustainable growth. To all those who call UAE home, I encourage you to think ambitiously and act boldly in contributing towards improving your community and ensuring that our nation remains

an inspiring model of progress and prosperity."

The Year of Community aims to strengthen family and community bonds by preserving cultural heritage, nurturing intergenerational ties, and creating inclusive spaces that foster collaboration, belonging, and shared experiences.

It also encourages all who call the UAE home to actively contribute to society through community service, volunteering, and impactful initiatives, promoting a culture of shared responsibility and driving collective progress.

In addition, the Year of Community seeks to unlock the potential and capabilities of individuals, families, and organisations by developing skills, nurturing talents, and fostering innovation in fields such as entrepreneurship and



emerging industries, including artificial intelligence, alongside other UAE national priorities, to enable inclusive growth and long-lasting positive impact.

In a separate tweet, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, said, "The declaration of 2025 as the Year of the Community highlights our priorities for the future: Strengthening social bonds and fostering unity across society."

He said, "The foundation of our nation's strength lies in a united community where individuals are connected, and care is extended to each other. A strong community thrives on fortified families and lays the groundwork for a brighter future for generations to come."

The initiative will be overseen by His Highness

Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Vice President, Deputy Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Presidential Court, along with Her Highness Sheikha Mariam bint Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairperson of the Presidential Court for National Projects.

Throughout the year, numerous events and initiatives will be launched to strengthen community cohesion, uphold Emirati values, and ensure a thriving environment where everyone can contribute to progress.

The 2025 initiative invites all members of the UAE community—citizens and residents alike—to contribute their ideas and proposals that enhance social bonds, foster community progress, and celebrate the cultural diversity that defines the UAE in support of building a strong and flourishing nation.



Zayed International Foundation for the Environment champions lifelong learning for a sustainable future at an international conference in India

The International Conference on 'Lifelong Learning for a Sustainable Future: Economy, Environment, Society,' was held from January 6-8, 2025, at the Adi Shankara Institute of Engineering and Technology in Kerala, India

The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment (ZIFE) emphasized the power of collaboration and innovation in creating a sustainable future at the International Conference on 'Lifelong Learning for a Sustainable Future: Economy, Environment, Society,' held from January 6-8, 2025, at the Adi Shankara Institute of Engineering and Technology in Kerala, India.

The Zayed International Foundation's participation at the prestigious event underscored its commitment to global environmental stewardship and highlighted the importance of innovative approaches to



The Zayed International Foundation for the Environment was pivotal to the success of the conference, setting the stage for continued collaboration and innovation in the pursuit of a sustainable future

promoting sustainable development. The three-day global conference aligns with the Foundation's mission to promote environmental sustainability through education and global cooperation, and to empower individuals to become responsible stewards of the planet.

Prof. Mohamed Ahmed bin Fahad, Chairman of the Higher Committee of the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment, delivered a keynote speech at the event in the presence of leading national, regional, and international scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and other stakeholders. Representing Zayed International Foundation at the event were Dr. Hamdan Khalifa Al Shaer, Deputy Chairman of the Higher Committee; Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif, Chief Technical Advisor; and Dr. Saji Ittoop Thomas, Technical Advisor.

Dr. Bin Fahad's thought leadership elevated the





conference's focus on sustainable development while the Foundation's delegation advocated innovative solutions and a holistic approach to combating climate change, emphasizing the critical interconnectedness of planetary and human well-being.

In his keynote address, Dr. Mohamed bin Fahad showcased the Foundation's impactful initiatives such as the Zayed International Prize for the Environment, and called on participants to foster international collaboration to advance the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

He said: "Our shared future hinges on the health of our planet. We must recognize the intrinsic link between human well-being and environmental sustainability, and adopt a holistic approach that integrates economic, social, and ecological considerations. Initiatives like the Zayed International Prize for the Environment exemplify the transformative potential of collaborative innovation. Let us work together, forging global partnerships and sharing knowledge, to build a sustainable world for generations to come."

The Zayed International Foundation was lauded by delegates at the event for its dedication to environmental sustainability and conservation, and for inspiring attendees to embrace sustainable practices and lifelong learning. The conference drew inspiration from the philosophies of the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub in Ireland, the Adi Shankara Group of Institutions, and the teachings of Shri Kamlesh D. Patel (Daaji), the Global Head of Heartfulness.

Major outcomes of the Conference:

Enhanced Global Networks: The conference strengthened the global networks among participating institutions, fostering a spirit of international cooperation and mutual support. These connections are instrumental in advancing



The Zayed International Foundation was lauded by delegates at the event for its dedication to environmental sustainability and conservation



lifelong learning and sustainability initiatives.

Strategic Partnerships: The collaborative efforts among ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub, Adi Shankara Group of Institutions, and the Zayed International Foundation for the Environment laid the groundwork for future joint projects and research, particularly in areas of environmental conservation and education.

Holistic Approaches to Education: Integrating Heartfulness principles and the Brighter Minds initiative into the conference agenda emphasized the importance of inner transformation, cognitive development, and emotional intelligence, promoting holistic education.

Innovative Solutions for Sustainability: Discussions and presentations at the conference generated innovative ideas and actionable plans to address environmental challenges. These solutions are poised to have a lasting impact on sustainable development efforts.



The Zayed International Foundation's participation in the conference has significantly shaped its future activities. The insights gained and connections forged will inform the development of new initiatives and projects, aligned with the SDGs. The Foundation's membership in the ASEM Lifelong Learning Hub further strengthens its role in promoting lifelong learning and sustainability, fostering crucial collaboration between Europe and the Middle East. This partnership will amplify the Zayed International Foundation's impact and contribute to a broader, more interconnected approach to addressing global sustainability challenges.





أسبوع أبوظبي للاستدامة ABU DHABI SUSTAINABILITY WEEK 2025



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ADSW 2025

ADSW 2025 concludes with commitment to supercharge sustainable progress and deliver new era of prosperity

Under the patronage of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, ADSW 2025 featured 13 heads of state and over 140 ministers and government officials from around the globe

Under the patronage of HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE, Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) 2025 concluded with a renewed global commitment to accelerate sustainable development and deliver a new era of prosperity.

Global leaders, including 13 heads of state and over 140 ministers and government officials, as well as over 3,500 business and civil society leaders, convened to advance dialogue on supercharging socioeconomic and environmental progress and unlocking a potential USD10 trillion economic transformation opportunity. Held from January 12 to 18, ADSW 2025, hosted by Masdar, connected over 50,000 attendees from over 170 countries, to explore pathways for a sustainable future.

Held under the theme 'The Nexus of Next. Supercharging Sustainable Progress,' ADSW provided a platform for dialogue and collaboration, focusing on leveraging the convergence of advanced technologies like

artificial intelligence (AI), energy innovation, and human expertise to drive inclusive, impactful progress. Policymakers, business and civil society leaders, and innovators engaged in a series of events and discussions designed to foster multi-stakeholder collaboration and drive widescale systematic change.

The opening ceremony, held on January 14, was attended by the UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, along with the heads of state and government representing Albania,

Under the theme, 'The Nexus of Next. Supercharging Sustainable Progress,' ADSW 2025 connected over 50,000 attendees from over 170 countries, to explore pathways for a sustainable and prosperous future for all



Azerbaijan, Finland, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Uganda and Uzbekistan. The event concluded with the Zayed Sustainability Prize Awards Ceremony, which recognized the innovative solutions of 11 pioneering organizations and high schools from around the world. His Highness awarded the winners across the six categories of Health, Food, Energy, Water, Climate Action, and Global High Schools, for their remarkable achievements, encouraging continued innovation in every corner of the globe.

ADSW 2025 began with the 15th annual Assembly of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), which took place on January 12 and 13, and was attended by 1,500 delegates, representing 140 countries from IRENA's global membership. The Global Climate Finance Centre (GCFC), in collaboration with Masdar, hosted its Annual Meeting on 13 January, connecting over 300 professionals and facilitating vital discussions on advancing climate finance.

The ADSW Summit, the anchor event of ADSW



2025, featured 34 dedicated sessions over two days, with more than 70 speakers and heads of state including H.E. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of Kazakhstan; H.E. Bola Tinubu, President of Nigeria; H.E. Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda; H.E. Wavel Ramkalawan, President of Seychelles; H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda; H.E. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, President of Uzbekistan; H.E. Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania; H.E. Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of Italy; H.E. Petteri Orpo, Prime Minister of Finland; H.E. Anwar Ibrahim, Prime Minister of Malaysia; and H.E. Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Key topics included the global energy systems transformation, impact of AI and other emerging technologies on sustainable development, and the reshaping of global investment patterns through the digital-climate nexus.

The Green Hydrogen Summit, held on January 16 under the theme 'Accelerating Green Hydrogen: Charting the Course for Industry Scale-Up,' brought together over 40 industry leaders sharing their insights and driving the adoption of green hydrogen across various sectors.

The Summit featured dialogue on unlocking investment potential, sustainable financial models, harmonizing global standards, and identifying concrete steps to accelerate the global uptake of green hydrogen.

Under the theme 'Igniting a Global Sustainable Economy,' the Women in Sustainability, Environment, and Renewable Energy (WiSER) Annual Forum, brought together over 100 international experts from government, industry, nonprofits, academia, and intergovernmental organizations, to explore the transformative role

Masdar, host of ADSW, announced landmark renewable energy projects, strengthening the company's global positioning and demonstrating the UAE's clean energy leadership



of women entrepreneurs in advancing the global sustainability agenda.

Under the theme 'Generation Now - Building the Future', Youth 4 Sustainability (Y4S), Masdar's global initiative to empower the next generation of sustainability leaders, delivered a packed program focused on youth innovation, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills in sustainability, community involvement and international representation.

The three-day program featured 45 sessions with over 100 speakers and moderators, including three heads of state, and explored how young people can use AI and other emerging technologies to develop climate solutions.

Under the theme, 'Voices of Resilience: Delivering Inclusive Climate Action', the Zayed Sustainability Prize Forum discussed the vital role of indigenous, marginalized and youth communities in advancing sustainable development and the power of philanthropy to drive meaningful change.

The Zayed Sustainability Prize also hosted Investor Connect, a high-impact networking platform where Prize finalists and winners pitched their solutions to an audience of investors, buyers and other stakeholders.

By connecting entrepreneurs with financiers, Investor Connect drives the scaling of innovations that generate a lasting, measurable impact and contribute to a sustainable future.



The 2025 WFES took place from January 14-16 at the ADNEC Centre and featured 11 country pavilions and more than 450 exhibitors. The 2025 event saw record-breaking attendance, with significant increases in the participation of female and international speakers, as well as trade buyers. It also provided a dynamic platform for over 55 entrepreneurs and startups to showcase their cutting-edge technologies. Notably, the CLiX showcase highlighted female innovators from around the world who are leading the charge in combating climate change.

Masdar, in collaboration with Emirates Water and Electricity Company (EWEC), announced the launch of the world's first large-scale 'round the clock' gigascale project combining solar power and battery storage to dispatch renewable energy 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Delivering up to 1 gigawatt (GW) of baseload

power, the project will feature a 5.2GW (DC) solar photovoltaic (PV) plant, coupled with a 19 gigawatt-hour (GWh) battery energy storage system (BESS), making it the largest project of its kind in the world.

Masdar also announced its entry into the Philippines market, signing agreements to develop up to 1GW of clean energy projects, covering solar, wind and BESS solutions, in the Southeast Asian nation, strengthening its growing portfolio in the region.

ADSW 2025 concluded with The Festival at Masdar City, which engaged the public in celebrating sustainable solutions and inspiring action through various activities at Masdar Park. The festival attracted over 12,000 attendees over the course of three days.



Dubai ranked world's cleanest city in Global Power City Index for the fifth consecutive year

UAE NEWS

Dubai has once again secured the top position globally for city cleanliness, according to the latest Global Power City Index (GPCI) report issued by the Institute for Urban Strategies at the Mori Memorial Foundation in Japan.

This prestigious recognition, achieved for the fifth year in a row, underscores Dubai's commitment to establishing itself as a benchmark for future cities.

Dubai outperformed more than 47 cities worldwide, achieving 100% satisfaction in the metric measuring city cleanliness under the environment pillar – one of the main criteria used to evaluate the global strength of cities.

Marwan bin Ghalita, Acting Director General of Dubai Municipality, praised the efforts of the civic body's cleanliness teams, consisting of more than 3,200 monitors, supervisors, and engineers, and acknowledged the vital role of public and private sector collaboration, along with the

support of the wider community, in achieving this remarkable milestone.

Dubai Municipality manages a cutting-edge cleanliness and sustainability system, ensuring seamless operations 365 days a year. Supported by a fleet of 855 advanced vehicles, machinery, and equipment, the Municipality oversees daily cleaning programmes across diverse areas, including 2,400 kms of main roads and highways, investment zones spanning 1,419 sq kms, 33.4 kms of water canals and creeks, as well as residential, industrial, and rural areas, markets, and waste storage facilities.

The programmes also oversee hazardous and medical waste treatment, provide community e-services such as household furniture disposal, and handle the removal of abandoned vehicles and equipment. E-systems are employed to monitor private sector vehicles engaged in waste collection and transportation.

WFES 2025 addresses arid regions' water challenges through AI innovation and top-level talks



Global leaders commit to prioritizing land restoration and drought resilience for food security and climate adaptation

Following three days of high-level debates and product innovation showcases, World Future Energy Summit 2025, the foremost regional event advancing clean energy and sustainability hosted by Masdar and part of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, concluded on January 16 at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC).

The summit led the charge in addressing the critical water security challenges faced by arid regions, including the Middle East & North Africa (MENA). Thought leaders and innovators at the Summit's dedicated Water Conference explored pioneering technologies and strategies to redefine water management in some of the world's most water-stressed regions and reduce leakage across distribution systems, which the industry says accounts for 30 per cent of water waste.

According to the latest UN Environment Programme data, only 11 per cent of the world's

treated wastewater is reused, with approximately 50 per cent of untreated wastewater polluting rivers, lakes, and oceans. Treated wastewater reuse is a valuable yet underutilized resource, and offers a circular economy opportunity, creates new revenue streams and jobs, fosters innovation, and advances wastewater management practices.

Beyond irrigation and industrial cooling, treated wastewater can recharge groundwater aquifers, be utilised as a concrete additive in construction, and even produce biogas through waste-to-energy technology.

Water security in the MENA

The MENA region, home to 15 of the world's 20 most water-scarce nations, faces mounting water security threats. According to The World Bank, by 2030, the amount of water available per capita in MENA will fall below the absolute water scarcity threshold of 500

cubic meters per person, per year and, as the population grows, the problem will become even more acute. Against this backdrop, the World Future Energy Summit's Water Conference served as a platform to discuss sustainable solutions in desalination, wastewater reuse, water network optimisation, and smart water technologies.

The conference analysed game-changing innovations and strategic insights to address a crisis being worsened by climate change, with the UAE's National Climate Change Plan to 2050 looking to foster public-private partnerships in water management and desalination technologies.

The conference also spotlighted enhanced desalination innovations to reduce the environmental footprint and economic costs of desalination, advanced wastewater reuse methods, and smart water management technologies, including leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI) and IoT for real-time monitoring, leak detection, irrigation optimisation and opportunities to transform wastewater into sustainable revenue-generating models.

UAE's water sector

His Excellency Eng Ahmed Alkaabi, Undersecretary Assistant for Electricity, Water & Future Energy Sector at the UAE Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure, used his keynote at the Summit's Water Conference to call for effective



management of water, energy, and food resources to ensure long-term sustainability, detailing how the Emirates is addressing water challenges both now and in the future through economic and innovative approaches.

“The scarcity of natural water resources and the high demand for water development has seen the UAE put water concerns at the top of the national agenda,” he said. “The current policies for the UAE’s water sector have an emphasis on the development of sustainable water supply sources, which can be achieved through the expansion of desalination technology, increasing the use of renewable energy sources in the water sector, and investing in technologies that increase efficiency and maximise the reuse of treated wastewater.”

AI as game-changer

Influential speakers at the 2025 edition of the summit included Dr. AlaEldin Idris Elhag, Water Resources Expert at the UAE Ministry of Energy & Infrastructure, Dr. Najib Dandachi, CEO of AI Usul, and Dr. Mohamed Hamyd Dawoud, Advisor for Environment Quality at the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi. They joined the opening panel

discussion to explore how regions can turn water vulnerabilities into strengths through community-driven initiatives, policy frameworks, and successful public-private partnerships (PPP).

In a statement, Dr. Mohamed Hamyd Dawoud said; “As water scarcity deepens, cutting-edge technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) are emerging as game-changers in enhancing water supply and efficiency.”

According to Dawoud, AI-driven tools enable real-time monitoring, predictive modelling, and optimised water distribution, ensuring resources are allocated with precision, with innovations in desalination, wastewater reuse, and smart irrigation systems redefining water management to meet growing needs sustainably. At the same time, these advancements support resilience to climate impacts, such as prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall.

The Summit displayed a variety of water-related innovations, including AI-driven irrigation systems, blockchain for water management transparency, and cutting-edge nanotechnology in water treatment, which, according to Consegic Business Intelligence, will be a market worth over

USD53 billion by 2031, growing by 16.3 per cent annually.

Innovative solutions

At the World Future Energy Summit, leading global companies presented innovative solutions to expand their presence in the local and regional markets via the UAE.

Spanish firm Nomad Solar Energy showcased mobile solar energy containers designed to replace traditional diesel generators in remote areas. The containers, which can be installed in 90 minutes, aim to reduce fuel consumption and carbon emissions, making them ideal for remote projects, mining sites, and large event venues.

Indian company NewEnergy Renewables Pvt Ltd. introduced its new solar tracking system to the Middle East market. This is the first time the company has presented the product in the UAE.

Chinese company Solargiga Energy Holdings Ltd. is entering the Middle East market with its advanced solar panel manufacturing technology while Antai Technology CO., Ltd., also from China, showcased its advanced solar panel mounting structures for large, residential, and industrial projects. The company has already established a presence in several regional markets through strategic partnerships and is now focusing on strengthening its position in the UAE and Gulf Cooperation Council countries.



UAE at WEF 2025: Key partnerships signed to shape the future of technology and healthcare

Agreements focused on regulatory innovation, future technologies, and smart health systems highlight the UAE's dedication to shaping a future-ready world

The UAE concluded its successful participation in the 2025 World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, held from 20-24 January.

Led by H.H. Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Chairperson of the Dubai Culture & Arts Authority (Dubai Culture), the UAE delegation, among the largest delegations at Davos this year, actively engaged in discussions addressing key global challenges and exploring emerging opportunities for international collaboration.

The forum's theme, "Collaboration in an Intelligent



Age," resonated strongly with the UAE's commitment to sustainable development and its focus on leveraging advanced technology for transformative solutions that drive development efforts.

The delegation, comprising over 100 CEOs, private sector representatives, and government officials, underscored the UAE's dedication to fostering international partnerships and contributing to global development efforts on both regional and international scales.

Leading the UAE delegation, H.H. Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

participated in key sessions and discussions at the forum, showcasing the UAE's developmental achievements and exchanging insights with international counterparts on priority areas.

H.H. Sheikha Latifa met with notable figures including Nobel Laureate and Interim Prime Minister of Bangladesh Professor Muhammad Yunus; Yingluck Shinawatra, former Thai Prime Minister; and Hilde Schwab, Co-Founder and

H.H. Sheikha Latifa bint Mohammed led the UAE delegation, showcasing the nation's achievements and commitment to global progress



Chairperson of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship.

H.H. Sheikha Latifa also toured art and culture exhibitions, exploring the intersection of arts, culture, and technology in addressing global challenges and fostering sustainable development.

The UAE government championed its private sector at Davos 2025, with national and private

sector companies comprising the majority of the UAE delegation.

This prominent presence showcased the sector's vital role in the UAE's sustainable economic growth and facilitated valuable international partnerships.

The Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) pledged AED 36.7 million (USD10 million) to the UNHCR to support sustainable programs for forcibly displaced communities. This brings MBRGI's total contribution to UNHCR programs to AED 163.6 million since 2021. The ongoing partnership between MBRGI and UNHCR is crucial for sustaining aid to displaced populations worldwide, given the increasing need for support.

The UAE and the World Economic Forum signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to create the Global Regulatory Innovation Platform (GRIP). GRIP will develop a Future-Readiness Index for Legislation and a Global Guide for Regulatory Innovation, and foster a network of experts and policymakers.

This initiative aims to build legislative capacity, share knowledge, and promote dialogue, strengthening the UAE's position as an attractive hub for businesses seeking a supportive regulatory environment.

The UAE and the World Economic Forum signed a partnership agreement to promote global



adoption of future technologies.

Leveraging the UAE's Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (UAE C4IR), overseen by the Dubai Future Foundation (DFF), this partnership will foster collaboration and development of emerging technologies, solidifying the UAE's role as a global hub for Fourth Industrial Revolution innovation.

DFF also partnered with the World Economic Forum to develop a global index measuring future readiness of public and private sector organisations. The index will assess their adaptability and ability to capitalize on future opportunities. DFF contributes its expertise and research, gained from developing the "Dubai Future Readiness Index," to this global initiative.

The Department of Health- Abu Dhabi signed a letter of intent (LOI) with the World Economic Forum to advance smart health systems globally.

Their joint initiative aims to leverage public-private sector partnerships to drive digital technology, data, and AI to maximize healthcare efficiency and improve patient outcomes. DoH joins a network of leading institutions accelerating this digital transformation, aligning global advancements with local healthcare strategies.

Geospatial Data Platform for Agriculture, Water Resources

The UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure unveiled the Geospatial Data Platform for Agriculture and Water Resources in collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and the Environment Agency - Abu Dhabi. The move contributes to the sustainability of the agricultural sector and the effective management of water resources.

The Geospatial Data Platform will contribute to reducing the use of groundwater in the agricultural sector by 2 per cent and increasing the use of unconventional water resources by 8-13 per cent by 2027. In addition, it will improve water productivity by upgrading the efficiency of agricultural production and enhance food security by improving local produce and relying on innovative agricultural strategies.

The platform features a user-friendly interface, supported by accurate geospatial maps that allows farmers and government entities to access comprehensive agricultural and water-related data, analyze the data to make informed decisions, and improve water demand management through innovative solutions and sustainable applications.



Sir Bu Nair Island Protected Area included in IUCN Green List

The Environment and Protected Areas Authority (EPAA) in Sharjah has officially announced the inclusion of Sir Bu Nair Island Protected Area in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas.

This milestone achievement reflects Sharjah's dedication to implementing world-class practices in sustainable management and biodiversity preservation, further solidifying Sharjah's leading position in global environmental sustainability initiatives.

Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, Chairperson of EPAA, congratulated the local task forces, international experts, and evaluation groups who played a pivotal role in achieving this exceptional milestone.

Sir Bu Nair Island Protected Area is one of the most prominent protected areas in the UAE. Known for its rich biodiversity and strategic

location, the island serves as a haven for rare seabirds and wildlife.

The island's inclusion in the IUCN Green List, valid until 5th December 2029, follows its full compliance with criteria such as integrated management, active community partnerships, adherence to governance principles, and continuous environmental monitoring. This reinforces the island's role as a living example of harmonising economic and social development with the preservation of natural resources.

Sir Bu Nair Island, spanning 13 sq kms in the Arabian Gulf, lies 110 kms north of Sharjah. Renowned for its golden sandy beaches and thriving coral and fish ecosystems, the island was declared a nature reserve in 2000. This designation elevated its international importance, leading to its inclusion in the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites.

UAE cements global leadership in clean energy innovation

The International Day of Clean Energy on 26 January is a call to raise awareness and mobilize action for a just and inclusive transition to clean energy for the benefit of people and the planet

The UAE has solidified its global position as a driving force in the transition to clean energy through its advanced projects that enhance energy security and inspire the world in innovation and sustainability on its journey to a more prosperous future.

In statements on the occasion of the International Day of Clean Energy, Dr. Nawal Al-Hosany, UAE's Permanent Representative to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), emphasised the success of the UAE's leadership in achieving international consensus to designate 26th January as the International Day of Clean Energy, coinciding with the founding date of IRENA. This day underscores the importance of future energy, which protects the planet's environment and resources, stimulates sustainable development, creates jobs, and strengthens business sectors.

She added that the UAE continues to promote



global investment in clean energy projects through its strategic partnerships, supportive platforms, and financial solutions for sustainable initiatives, particularly in climate-vulnerable and developing communities.

Dr. Al-Hosany also drew attention to the crucial role of clean energy in expanding the horizons of the green, circular, and climate-resilient economy, and its contribution to fulfilling climate commitments, such as the historic UAE Consensus during COP28, which includes pledges to triple renewable energy production and double energy efficiency by 2030.

The UAE continues its achievements in clean energy strategic projects, with the first weeks of this year witnessing the launch of the world's first large-scale 'round the clock' gigascale project, combining solar power and battery storage in Abu Dhabi. Delivering up to 1 gigawatt (GW) of baseload power every day generated from renewable energy, it will be the largest combined solar and battery energy storage system (BESS) in the world.

Located in Abu Dhabi, the project will feature a 5.2GW (DC) solar photovoltaic (PV) plant, coupled with a 19 gigawatt-hour (GWh) BESS, setting a global benchmark in clean energy innovation.

The UAE is also preparing to enhance its clean energy production portfolio with Al Ajban Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Independent Power Project expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2026. The station will generate 1.5 gigawatts of electricity and contribute to carbon neutrality by reducing emissions by over 2.4 million tonnes annually, making it one of the largest independent solar power stations in the world.

The UAE currently hosts three of the largest solar power plants in the world, targeting a clean energy production capacity of 14.2 gigawatts by 2030, reaffirming its commitment to achieving

The UAE currently hosts three of the largest solar power plants in the world, targeting a clean energy production capacity of 14.2 gigawatts by 2030

global ambitions and complying with the Paris Agreement.

From Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park to the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant, the UAE continues to enhance its portfolio of the largest and most efficient projects in the world to shape a sustainable future that combines innovation, environmental protection, and community well-being.

The Barakah four nuclear reactors have produced nearly 88,000 gigawatt-hours of eco-friendly electricity to date, playing a crucial role in positioning the UAE at the forefront of climate action. Since their operation, the four stations have helped reduce carbon emissions by more than 43,000 kilotonnes.

In the past six years, the UAE has added more clean electricity per capita than any other country. 75 percent of this clean electricity comes from the Barakah plant, which produces 40 TWh of clean electricity annually, meeting 25% of the UAE's electricity needs and 85% of Abu Dhabi's clean electricity.

With the full operation of all units, the Emirates Nuclear Energy Company is exploring opportunities in advanced nuclear energy technologies such as small modular reactors (SMR), advanced reactor technologies, and clean energy sources like hydrogen.

‘Green Hydrogen poised for unprecedented growth in 2025’

Officials at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2025 highlight the transformative potential of hydrogen as a clean energy source, fueled by large-scale projects and increasing investment

The hydrogen sector is poised for unprecedented growth in 2025, driven by its integration into numerous industries and its adoption across various sectors, said officials at the Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week 2025. They highlighted the significant transformation of the hydrogen sector in recent years, driven by large-scale projects demonstrating the immense potential of hydrogen as a clean energy source.

Kuljit Ghata-Aura, President of Boeing Middle East, Türkiye and Africa (META), said that green hydrogen, produced from renewable sources, will play an increasingly important role in sustainable aviation fuel and improve its efficiency. He emphasised that the aviation industry is committed to introducing this biofuel to achieve global sustainability goals.

He highlighted the strong partnership with the UAE and national entities, including the



Sustainable Bioenergy Research Consortium (SBRC), which comprises Masdar Institute, Khalifa University, Etihad Airways, and other leading entities in this field.

He stressed that research has resulted in the production of biofuel that has been successfully used to power aircraft operated by the national carrier, Etihad Airways.

Ghata-Aura also reaffirmed Boeing's commitment to strengthening its relations with the UAE and working towards achieving significant and sustainable progress in the aviation sector.

He explained that the company continues to support major airlines such as Emirates and Etihad Airways, which operate approximately 300 Boeing aircraft, emphasizing their efforts to meet the needs of these airlines and support their future expansion.

The President of Boeing Middle East, Türkiye and Africa said the company works closely with the UAE to foster an environment of innovation, placing emphasis on sustainability initiatives that support the development of innovative and environmentally friendly solutions.

Ivana Jemelkova, CEO of the Hydrogen Council, affirmed that the hydrogen sector is undergoing a significant transformation, reflecting unprecedented global development, with committed capital increasing sevenfold in the past four years.

She added that the Hydrogen Council currently oversees more than 430 projects worldwide, indicating the maturity of the sector and the progress of projects towards actual implementation. She added that the next phase will focus on building integrated ecosystems to support commercial demand for hydrogen.

Jemelkova commended the leading role of the UAE and the region in supporting global initiatives

From aviation to broader energy applications, hydrogen is taking center stage in the global transition to sustainable practices



to develop the hydrogen sector, noting the recent joining of Masdar to the board of directors of the Hydrogen Council.

She expressed her desire to intensify cooperation with the UAE and the region to drive the growth of hydrogen projects regionally and globally.

The CEO of the Hydrogen Council stated that 2025 will be pivotal for the hydrogen sector, as efforts will focus on activating policies and the regulatory framework and driving the momentum of project implementation on the ground. She emphasised that leading markets will play a key role in accelerating the pace of growth.



UAE, Italy, Albania sign green energy cooperation agreement

Strategic partnership aims to enhance cooperation in renewable energy and energy infrastructure between the three nations

In the presence of UAE President His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan; Her Excellency Giorgia Meloni, Prime Minister of Italy; and His Excellency Edi Rama, Prime Minister of Albania, the UAE, Italy, and Albania have signed a landmark tripartite strategic partnership framework to enhance cooperation in renewable energy and energy infrastructure.

The framework was signed by His Excellency Dr Sultan Al Jaber, UAE Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, COP28 President, and Chairman of Masdar; His Excellency Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, Italian Minister of the Environment and Energy Security; and Her Excellency Belinda Balluku, Albanian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure and Energy.

Announced on the sidelines of the High-Level Dialogue on Grid Interconnectivity at Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, the tripartite strategic partnership framework marks a significant step towards enhancing energy security, promoting

sustainable development, and accelerating clean energy transition in the Mediterranean region.

It outlines key areas of cooperation between the UAE, Italy, and Albania, including the deployment of gigawatt-scale renewable energy projects in Albania, focusing on solar photovoltaics, wind, and hybrid solutions with potential battery storage. A significant portion of this renewable energy will be transmitted to Italy.

The partnership will oversee the implementation

Landmark tripartite cooperation to deploy gigawatt-scale renewable energy projects in Albania, and establish cross-border electricity transmission interconnection to Italy



of a cross-border electricity transmission interconnection linking Albania and Italy.

HE Dr. Sultan Al Jaber said, "The new era of global interconnectivity is essential for meeting the commitment to triple renewable energy, drive decarbonisation, increase energy access, and boost economic growth.

"By leveraging the UAE's world-class expertise in renewable energy, Albania's abundant natural resources, and Italy's sophisticated energy

market, we are connecting nations in far-sighted collaboration for the development and sharing of renewable energy capacity across the Mediterranean. The UAE is proud to be, once again, at the forefront of the global energy system transformation."

HE Gilberto Pichetto Fratin commented, "We are very pleased to be part of the tripartite strategic partnership framework aimed at strengthening cooperation with countries with great potential to develop cost-effective renewable energy,



which will further increase Italy's role as an energy and renewables hub in the Mediterranean.

"The partnership also elevates our collaboration with Balkan countries in the energy sector, which is relevant for Italy and the European Union, thereby reinforcing regional cooperation."

HE Belinda Balluku added, "This strategic partnership is a momentous step for Albania as we move forward with our renewable energy ambitions. By joining forces with the UAE, a global leader in renewable energy innovation, and Italy, with its advanced energy infrastructure and market expertise, we are unlocking immense potential for sustainable growth.

"Albania's abundant natural resources, coupled with the strengths of our partners, will not only drive the green energy transition but will also create long-term economic and job opportunities. Together, we are laying the foundation for a greener, more resilient energy future for the Mediterranean region and beyond."

The framework follows the signing of a joint venture term sheet between Masdar and Korporata Elektroenergjitiqe Shqiptare (KESH) – Albania Power Corporation – on the sidelines of COP29 in November last year.

The agreement sought to establish a strategic partnership to develop, construct, and operate renewable energy projects in Albania utilising a range of renewable technologies, including solar PV, wind, and hybrid solutions, with potential integration of battery storage.

In attendance were H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Chairman of the Presidential Court for Special Affairs; HE Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoun Al Nahyan, Advisor to His Highness the UAE President; and HE Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation; along with other senior officials.



International experts converge in UAE & Oman to preserve earthen legacy

CONSERVATION

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi (DCT Abu Dhabi), in partnership with the Getty Conservation Institute, has convened the third edition of the International Course on Earthen Architecture Conservation (EAC) in Al Ain, UAE, and Nizwa, Oman.

Building on the success of the previous two editions in 2018 and 2022, the month-long programme concludes on February 23, 2025.

In regions worldwide, including the Arabian Peninsula, earth has been a fundamental construction material for centuries. Despite efforts to safeguard and maintain these significant sites, earthen structures globally are at risk of disappearing due to abandonment, demolition, and substitution with modern materials. Although the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia hold much of the world's earthen architecture, there are limited targeted training opportunities available for professionals on the conservation of earthen heritage.

20 participants from the MENASA region with varied backgrounds in archaeology, architecture, material science, urban planning, and engineering were selected as part of the 2025 cohort.

This course reflects DCT Abu Dhabi's commitment to promoting, preserving, and protecting earthen architecture, a hallmark of the emirate's architectural identity and a shared building tradition globally. It enables professionals to refine their skills and acquire practical expertise by learning from and practicing on earthen heritage sites in Al Ain and Nizwa.

The course is taught by 14 leading experts and instructors in the field of conservation of earthen materials, including several from DCT Abu Dhabi's Historic Environment Department. The curriculum covers a variety of topics including conservation theory and principles, mechanisms of decay, conservation interventions, materials testing, site management, and heritage planning.



Making buildings greener is crucial to countering climate change

Alongside the hum of traffic, the soundtrack of most cities includes the noise of construction workers drilling, hammering, and digging as they furiously erect new buildings.

In fact, every five days the world adds structures equivalent to the size of Paris. Yet the way humanity constructs and operates buildings is unsustainable, say experts, as energy-related carbon dioxide emissions from building operations and construction make up around 37 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions.

Reducing the carbon footprint of homes, offices, and other buildings will be essential to meet the targets of the Paris Agreement and reducing emissions must be part of a larger, more ambitious global effort to counter climate change.

Here is a closer look at how buildings are feeding the climate crisis and how to make them greener.

What is the link between buildings and climate change?

The built environment - the place where people live, sleep, work, and play - is a major source of carbon dioxide. This greenhouse gas traps heat near the Earth's surface, warming the planet and driving climate change.



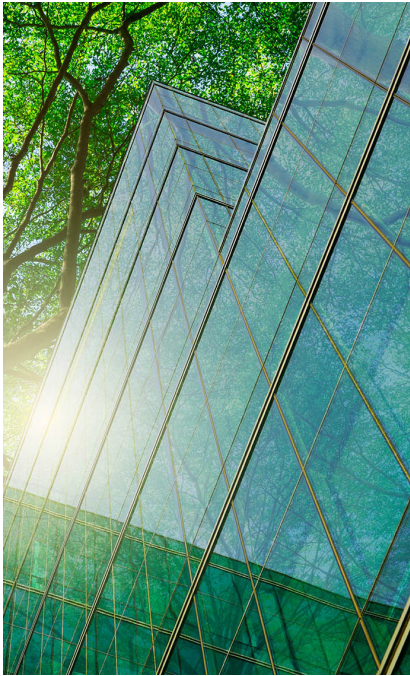
Why are buildings such a major source of carbon dioxide emissions?

There are two reasons. Firstly, buildings use vast amounts of energy for heating, cooling and lighting. In 2022, the buildings sector accounted for 34 per cent of the world's power consumption. In many countries, energy is generated mostly from fossil fuels - like coal and oil - which release carbon dioxide when burned. This is what is known as operational carbon.

Secondly, buildings are full of steel, cement, aluminium and glass, which require a lot of energy to make, transport and install, again generating carbon dioxide emissions. This is what is known as embodied carbon.

Are we on track to decarbonise the buildings sector?

No. Global building sector emissions are still rising, jumping one per cent between 2021 and 2022. While that might not seem like much, it is equivalent to adding 10 million cars to the world's roads. The sector also remains off track to achieve decarbonisation by 2050. In 2022, just six per cent of the energy used in buildings came from renewable sources. That is a long way off from a target of 18 percent by 2030 envisioned by the International Energy Agency.



How urgent is the need to make buildings greener?

Very. Half of the buildings that will exist by 2050 have not yet been built.

Unless the world changes how buildings are built and used, there will be little chance of meaningfully addressing climate change, which will lead to, among other things, more extreme weather. That is not something the planet can afford.

This is why near-zero-emission and resilient buildings need to be the new normal by 2030. That is one of the key aims of the Buildings Breakthrough, an international effort led by France and Morocco, and coordinated by the UNEP-hosted Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction.

What can be done to reduce building-sector emissions?

Humanity must reduce both operational and embodied emissions from its buildings. To reduce operational carbon emissions, buildings must become more efficient, cutting the amount of energy they use for things like heating and cooling.

This can be done through the adoption of higher energy performance standards for new buildings, the retrofitting of existing buildings, the use of more efficient appliances, better energy planning and system integration. The use of renewable energy to power buildings must also be increased.



Will that require more investment?

Yes. Humanity will need to increase how much it spends on making its buildings climate friendly. Investments in decarbonising structures reached USD285 billion according to the Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction. But that number fell short of targets for 2030 and 2050.



How can the world reduce embodied emissions?

A UNEP-backed report, *Building Materials and the Climate*, outlines a three-pronged solution: avoid, shift, and improve. First, embodied carbon emissions can be avoided by building with fewer materials reusing building components, and repurposing existing buildings as part of a more circular approach to construction.

Second, it is important to shift to more renewable, sustainably sourced bio-based building materials, such as timber and bamboo. Third, humanity must improve and lower the carbon footprint of conventional materials, including concrete, steel and aluminium. This can be done, for example, by using renewable energy in the manufacturing process.

All these measures combined can help put the world on the path to net-zero carbon emissions in the buildings and construction sector by 2050.



What can governments do right now to lower the carbon footprint of buildings?

First and foremost, governments can develop and enforce climate action roadmaps for buildings and construction. Governments can ensure building energy codes are aligned with zero-emissions building principles. They can incentivise investments in building decarbonisation and develop policies to reduce embodied carbon through sustainable practices and materials. They can also promote the retrofitting of older buildings to slash energy consumption.

Countries could also join the Buildings Breakthrough, launched at the COP28 UN Climate Change Conference in the UAE, and endorse the Declaration de Chaillot, unveiled at the Buildings and Climate Global Forum, to boost international cooperation. Implementing the commitments laid out in these frameworks can help countries to achieve the sustainable transition of the buildings sector and more widely, the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The next round of country-level climate commitments, known as Nationally Determined Contributions, also offers leaders the opportunity to develop clear targets for the buildings sector.



UAE, IRENA lead discussions on gender equity, energy transition

Discussions focused on driving gender equity in diplomacy and energy leadership while fostering innovative and inclusive dialogue to address the global energy transition

The UAE, in collaboration with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), hosted a special session of the Women in Diplomacy and Renewables Talk initiatives to celebrate the International Day of Clean Energy. The event coincided with the 16th anniversary of the foundation of IRENA and reiterated the global commitment to providing universal clean energy access and meeting the climate goals pledged during the UAE Consensus at the culmination of COP28.

Hosted at the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) Sustainability and Innovation Centre, the event focused on driving gender equity in diplomacy and energy leadership while fostering innovative and inclusive dialogue to address the global energy transition.

At the event, Permanent Representatives to IRENA, diplomats, and energy leaders reflected on the progress of these programmes, shared best practices, and refined their roadmap for the future.

Participants also contributed to identifying key themes and structures for future sessions and discussed ways to increase momentum for the gender equity and energy transition dialogues ahead of COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Amna bint Abdulla Al Dahak, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, stated, "This collaborative session

Participants discussed ways to increase momentum for the gender equity and energy transition dialogues ahead of COP30 in Belém, Brazil



on 'Women in Diplomacy and Renewables' underscores the importance of gender equity and inclusion in driving sustainable development. By empowering women and ensuring their participation, we aim to unlock the full potential of the global energy sector."

IRENA Director-General Francesco La Camera said, "This day serves as a clear reminder of the potential of renewables to address climate change, foster sustainable development, reduce pollution, and shape a clean energy future for all. Despite record growth in renewables, the global distribution of renewable power remains alarmingly uneven, with the Global South

increasingly being left behind. Urgent global action is needed to address the structural and systemic barriers hindering progress, including gaps in critical infrastructure, regulatory frameworks, technical capacity, and the need for significantly increased investment."

The session concluded with a guided tour of the DEWA Sustainability and Innovation Centre, where delegates explored cutting-edge technologies in renewable energy and energy efficiency showcased at the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park, the world's largest single-site solar park developed under the Independent Power Producer (IPP) model.

Sustainable finance is transforming the GCC's future: Report

As the global need for sustainable finance continues to surge, the GCC is using it as a critical lever for economic diversification and progress towards achieving net-zero targets. A new report by KPMG Lower Gulf and First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) found that sustainable finance has a pivotal role in driving economic growth, job creation, and diversification across the GCC.

The report, titled 'The Sustainable Finance Imperative', examines how climate-smart investments, estimated to total USD23 trillion across emerging markets, and other instruments are reshaping the region's economic future. Launched on the sidelines of Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week, the report emphasizes how sustainable finance is key to addressing global climate goals and fostering long-term resilience in the region.

The report outlines how the GCC's focus on green investments is projected to contribute up to USD2 trillion to regional GDP by 2030, primarily through sectors such as renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure. FAB, the UAE's largest bank, has facilitated AED 216 billion in sustainable and transition financing projects — 43% of its 2030 target of AED 500 billion — as ESG-focused financing is driven by clear client demand.

Green investments are expected to create over one million jobs by the end of the decade, with the UAE already committing USD16.8 billion toward renewable energy initiatives. CEOs in the region increasingly recognize the value of ESG-driven strategies, with 56 per cent expecting significant returns from sustainability investments within the next five years, signalling a shift in corporate priorities towards long-term resilience. The findings of this report come at a crucial time as the region ramps up its efforts to combat climate change and shift to a low-carbon emission environment.

Fadi Al Shihabi, Partner and ESG Services Leader at KPMG Lower Gulf, said: "This new report illustrates



Sustainable finance has a pivotal role in driving economic growth, job creation, and diversification across the GCC, says new report by KPMG Lower Gulf and First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB)



The GCC's focus on green investments is projected to contribute up to USD2 trillion to regional GDP by 2030

positioning the GCC as a leader in the global energy transition. The GCC is set to capitalize on emerging climate-smart investments further, with sustainable projects set to drive GDP growth and create substantial employment opportunities, especially in the renewable energy and infrastructure sectors.

The report also emphasizes the critical role of sustainable finance in attracting foreign direct investment and fast-tracking economic diversification. By aligning financial flows with national sustainability strategies, the GCC is establishing itself as a global leader in sustainable finance.

how sustainable finance is not only transforming the GCC's economic landscape but is also creating critical opportunities for diversification and value creation. As the region transitions to a low-carbon economy, financial institutions and policymakers must collaborate to leverage these opportunities and build a more sustainable and resilient future.”

The report provides detailed insights into how financial instruments facilitate the merging of ESG principles across the GCC's transition. Flagship projects such as the Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Solar Park in the UAE and the NEOM Green Hydrogen project in Saudi Arabia are leading examples of how sustainable finance is enabling large-scale, climate-resilient developments. These projects show the transformative potential of green finance for environmental and economic goals,



Jeep® Wagoneer S: The first all-electric Jeep is engineered for adventure



The new Jeep® Wagoneer S, the brand's first global battery-electric vehicle (BEV), delivers 4xe capability, impressive performance credentials, a sleek aerodynamic design, and state-of-the-art technology

The Jeep® brand has charged into the electrified SUV segment with the launch of its first global battery-electric vehicle (BEV) – the Jeep Wagoneer S Launch Edition.

The Jeep Wagoneer S is offered exclusively as a BEV with a range of more than 300 miles on a single charge, delivering 600 horsepower, lightning-quick 0-60 mph acceleration time of 3.4 seconds, and more than 800 Nm of instant torque. Impressive performance credentials paired with the Jeep brand-exclusive Selec-Terrain traction management system, Jeep Wagoneer S instills driving confidence and traction for all weather and road conditions.

Effortless charging solutions

To make charging quick and easy, the Jeep Wagoneer S carries an efficient 400-volt, 100-kilowatt-hour battery pack that allows

Jeep Wagoneer S delivers exhilarating performance with 600 horsepower and a lightning-quick 0-60 mph acceleration time of 3.4 seconds



distinct driving modes: Auto, Sport, Eco, Snow, Sand. The front EDM is equipped with wheel disconnects to reduce energy draw when cruising and to help optimize range.

The use of new technologies and techniques played a crucial role in the overall development of the Jeep Wagoneer S. To improve the driving experience and reduce the overall noise and vibration levels to create a quiet interior cabin and a smooth ride, the Jeep engineering team improved body torsion stiffness by 35 percent over previous midsize-segment Jeep brand SUVs for a superior ride, handling and effective response to driver input.

Premium exterior design

Forged from premium heritage, innovation, and refinement, the 2024 Jeep Wagoneer S blazes a new path with its elevated style, sleek sophistication, and unwavering confidence. The SUV's exterior design is an intelligent combination of harmonious proportions, modern 4xe capability and aerodynamic efficiency that reimagines the Jeep brand's functional side for today's electrification era.

owners to charge the vehicle from 20% to 80% in 23 minutes. Every Jeep Wagoneer S Launch Edition also includes a 48-amp Level 2 home charger to ensure seamless charging and energy management.

Electrified architecture

The length, width, suspension, and powertrain configurations of the BEV-native STLA Large platform have been tailored specifically to deliver instant torque and lightning-quick acceleration. Stellantis-designed electric drive modules (EDMs) independently power the front and rear wheels for instant torque response, while the Jeep brand-exclusive Selec-Terrain traction management system features five





The front fascia is artfully punctuated by a reimagined, seven-slot grille. New striking ambient cast lighting is inspired by modern architecture and delivers a distinguishable appearance. Aerodynamic surfacing is pronounced through the precise slope and curvature of the hood and windshield, both angled for optimal performance and efficiency at high speeds. A sloping roofline cascades beneath a cantilevered rear spoiler, bridging function and aesthetics with its signature Wagoneer silhouette.

The Jeep Wagoneer S Launch Edition is exclusively outfitted with elegant dark accent cues and features 20-inch Gloss Black wheels, as well as Gloss Black and dark neutral gray exterior elements throughout. Noticeably absent is the use of chrome, as the design team incorporated environmentally friendly processes and materials.

Efficient design approach

Jeep brand designers and engineers set aggressive goals to reach optimal aerodynamic performance for maximum efficiency, range and performance while maintaining its sleek, premium appearance. By utilizing state-of-the-art tools and a rigorous testing and development process, including state-of-the-art wind tunnels, the team achieved a coefficient of drag (CD) of 0.29, which is the lowest CD ever for a Jeep vehicle and approximately 15 percent better than the average SUV.

The art of interior design

The new Jeep Wagoneer S builds upon the Jeep brand's legacy of world-class interiors and its tech-integrated interior features a best-in-class usable screen space of more than 45 inches, segment-exclusive interactive front passenger

The Jeep Wagoneer S Launch Edition features elegant black cues, reimagined seven-slot illuminated grille, and 20-inch wheels



screen, artisan details, and elegant appointments.

The sleek, linear cockpit is fully digital with modern controls and interfaces. The architecturally impactful, integrated 12.3-inch center display is framed by a rich mix of materials, including a refined cross-metal deco trim applique with a glazed laced pattern. The Launch Edition comes standard with a full suite of customizable LED lighting with daytime/nighttime settings, plus active, direct ambient lighting with up to 64 selectable colors.

Purposeful design equation

The front cockpit of the Jeep Wagoneer S is adorned with several new details, including a new black ceramic-coated aluminum with haptic

applique that appears on many of the vehicle's touch points. The use of recycled resources and materials was consciously integrated into the Jeep Wagoneer S. The seating, console, doors, and instrument panel surfaces feature a non-leather synthetic material.

Safety, security features

The 2024 Jeep Wagoneer S delivers a combination of more than 170 standard safety and security features that help make instrumentation easier to see and aid in collision avoidance with advanced driver-assist technology. Features on the Launch Edition include Active Driving Assist, Intersection Collision Assist, Drowsy Driver Detection, Traffic Sign Recognition, and Surround View camera.

Global market for nuclear power plants was at rock bottom in 2024



The global market for nuclear power plants has been stagnating at a very low level for years, with no real renaissance in sight. Even in view of the expected short-term increase in electricity demand from data centers for AI applications, new nuclear power plants are not a realistic option due to the long construction times alone.

According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), only six new nuclear power plants went into operation worldwide in 2024. In 2023, this figure was five. At the same time, four old nuclear power plants were permanently decommissioned. The global net addition of

nuclear power plants therefore amounts to just two new nuclear power plants.

According to IAEA data as of January 2025, new nuclear power plants with a total (net) capacity of 6,813 MW were connected to the grid in 2024. These are located in the United Arab Emirates (Barakah-4, 1,310 MW), China (Fangchenggang-4, 1,000 MW and Zhangzhou-1, 1,126 MW), India (Kakrapar-4, 630 MW), France (Flamanville-3, 1,630 MW) and the USA (Vogtle-4, 1,117 MW). At the same time, old nuclear power plants with a total capacity (net) of 2,891 MW were decommissioned worldwide in 2024, including Kursk-2 (925 MW) in Russia, Maanshan-1 (936

MW) in Taiwan and the two Pickering nuclear power plants 1 and 4 (515 MW each) in Canada.

The reasons for the weak growth of the global market for nuclear power plants remain unchanged: extremely high investment costs, very long construction times of 10 - 15 years, and equally extremely high financing risks, which can practically only be assumed by state-owned companies. In addition, the market for nuclear power plants relies on a very small number of companies - mostly state-owned enterprises - that are able to build and export nuclear power plants at all.

One example of the enormous costs and long construction times of nuclear power plants is the French nuclear power plant Flamanville 3, which went into operation in 2024. In 2006, the construction costs for Flamanville 3 were estimated at 3.2 to 3.3 billion euros, with a construction period of 5 years. According to the French Court of Auditors, the costs have now exploded to 23.7 billion euros after 17 years of construction; with a return of, for example, 4 percent, the selling price for nuclear power would have to be 12.2 cents per kilowatt hour.

Even small, modular nuclear reactors (SMRs), which are advertised as a more cost-effective and flexible solution, cannot currently solve the fundamental problems of nuclear power. One example of the market difficulties of mini-nuclear power plants is the planned Idaho flagship project of Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems (UAMPS) in the USA; the SMR project was abandoned due to exploding construction costs and too high costs for nuclear power.

“In view of the potential increase in electricity

demand from AI data centers, nuclear power plants are not a competitive alternative to renewable energies. Building a new nuclear power plant simply takes too long, is extremely expensive and the financing remains risky,” says IWR Head Dr. Norbert Allnoch.

By way of comparison: while the net addition of nuclear power capacity will reach 3,922 MW worldwide in 2024, China alone has installed solar power plants with an incredible record capacity of 277,000 MW in the same period. Allnoch continues: “If China continues its current pace of building solar plants until 2030, the country will overtake the current power generation of the entire global nuclear power plant fleet by the end of the decade with its own low-cost solar power alone.”





Manchester, UK: Investing in a sustainable future

The city is embracing nature-based solutions to enhance its resilience against climate impacts

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GREEN CITY

Manchester has long been at the forefront of sustainability initiatives in the United Kingdom, striving to balance economic growth with environmental stewardship and social equity. The city's comprehensive approach encompasses ambitious climate targets, innovative transportation solutions, and the promotion of green businesses.

The city has identified key climate actions to be taken by 2025 to help reach their target to be zero carbon by 2038.

Buildings and Energy

The target for the city's estate and street lighting is to reduce CO₂ (carbon) emissions by 50 percent by the end of 2025. Emissions from Council buildings have reduced by 66 percent since 2009-10, and from 47,764 tonnes to 16,375 tonnes in 2023-24.

The city has set itself an ambitious target of becoming zero carbon by 2038



They have developed projects for housing retrofit and local energy generation and are working with UK Core Cities and the Government to find new ways to finance them.

The city has produced new buildings and energy strategy for their estate. By retrofitting 18 buildings as part of their estate decarbonization, a total carbon saving of 3,100 tonnes a year is forecast and the city has secured funding for another eight buildings.

Manchester has also installed 55,000 LED streetlights which resulted in emissions being 87 percent lower in 2023-24 (13,709 tonnes of CO₂) than in 2009-10. The city has procured direct renewable electricity via a Power Purchase

Agreement. This will provide traceable renewable energy and significantly reduce carbon emissions from Autumn 2025.

Sustainable Transport

A significant component of Manchester's sustainability efforts is the transformation of its public transportation system. The city has launched the Bee Network, marking the first instance in nearly 40 years of bringing buses under public control outside London. This initiative integrates buses and trams into a cohesive system, to achieve an all-electric fleet powered by renewable energy by 2030. The introduction of bright yellow electric buses will reduce traffic pollution and improve air quality.



The city became the European Capital of Cycling for 2024 and is home to the National Cycling Centre, a world-class venue that offers a wide range of cycling provisions and is the base for British Cycling and the Great Britain Cycling Team. The facility has recently undergone a GBP26 million refurbishment programme which will safeguard its offer to residents from across the city, as well as people from all over the world.

The city also has a significant number of capital cycling projects in the pipeline, including the development of a series of cycle hubs across the city, and future projects to upgrade or build new assets to drive growth in cycling citywide. They also have an active travel strategy and investment plan in place, the five-year plan aims to make walking the natural choice for short journeys. It also aims to double cycling from 6 percent to 12 percent of journeys.

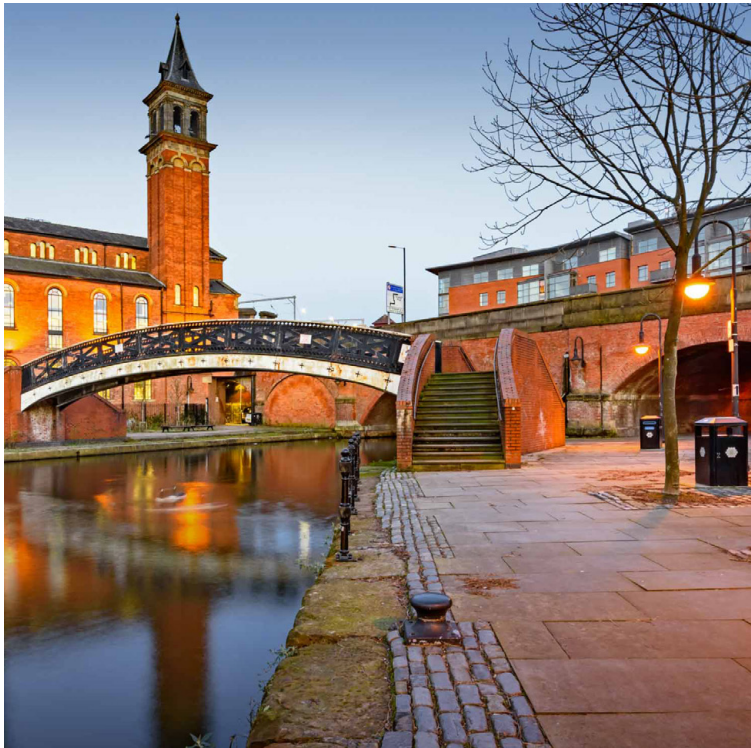
Single-use Plastics

Manchester City Council has developed a detailed action plan that outlines steps to minimize single-use plastic (SUP) usage across its operations and services. The council's definition of "avoidable" SUPs encompasses non-essential items or for which viable alternatives exist, such as reusable products. Examples include hot and cold drink cups and lids, drink bottles, cutlery, and personal protective equipment.

In addition to internal efforts, the council is influencing behavior change across the wider city by promoting initiatives like Refill Manchester, which encourages businesses to offer free tap water refills to reduce the need for single-use plastic bottles.

Manchester's approach aligns with broader legislative changes in England. As of October 1,

Manchester, the European Capital of Cycling for 2024, is proactively reducing its carbon footprint by transitioning to electric vehicles and promoting sustainable travel options



focus of an exciting, innovative, and extensive strategy and action plan that aims to highlight their incredible value and functionality. Specifically, the tree and woodland action plan aims to grow the number of trees in the city from 19 percent to 22 percent by 2050. To do it, an estimated 64,000 trees will be planted. Growing the tree canopy cover will help the city to be more resilient to climate change and the city has a data-led approach to tree and hedge planting.

The Mayfield Park is a green lung for Manchester, as the city's first new park in over 100 years. A diverse mix of plant and tree species are part of the landscape design, with over 300 trees planted across the neighbourhood to facilitate carbon capture. Wildflowers and wetland planting also encourage biodiversity. The River Medlock has been uncovered and rejuvenated, creating a new habitat for wildlife. The park contains a number of new measures to support biodiversity, including kingfisher posts, bat bricks, and bird boxes. Many species are already returning to Mayfield, including fish and birds!

2023, new laws have come into effect banning certain single-use plastic items, including cutlery, plates, trays, bowls, balloon sticks, and specific types of polystyrene cups and food containers.

Green Infrastructure

Gardens, golf courses, parks, allotments, woods, ponds, and canals - Manchester's great outdoors has something for everybody and will play a huge role as the City grows and thrives over the coming years. These spaces will provide a kind of life support system for the city including great places for health and recreation, havens for wildlife, a backdrop for investment and so much more.

Manchester's green and blue spaces (Green Infrastructure or GI for short) have been the





Climate change impacts grip globe in 2024: WMO

World Meteorological Organization reports alarming temperature increases and rising greenhouse gas levels, highlighting the urgent need for climate action

Climate change impacts gripped the globe in 2024, with cascading impacts from mountain peaks to ocean depths and on communities, economies, and the environment.

The year 2024 was one of the warmest on record, capping a decade of unprecedented heat fuelled by human activities, according to the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). Greenhouse gas levels continue to grow to record observed highs, locking in even more heat for the future.

“Today I can officially report that we have just endured a decade of deadly heat. The top ten hottest years on record have happened in the last ten years, including 2024,” said UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

“This is climate breakdown — in real time. We must exit this road to ruin — and we have no time to lose. In 2025, countries must put the world on a safer path by dramatically slashing emissions, and supporting the transition to a renewable future,” he said.

WMO will publish the consolidated global temperature figure for 2024 and its full State of the Global Climate 2024 report in March 2025.

“In my first year as WMO Secretary-General, I have issued repeated Red Alerts about the state of the climate,” said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo. “WMO marks its 75th anniversary in 2025 and our message will be that if we want a safer planet, we must act now. It’s our responsibility. It’s a common responsibility, a



global responsibility,” she said.

“Every fraction of a degree of warming matters, and increases climate extremes, impacts and risks. Temperatures are only part of the picture. Climate change plays out before our eyes on an almost daily basis in the form of increased occurrence and impact of extreme weather events,” she said.

“This year we saw record-breaking rainfall and flooding events and terrible loss of life in so many

countries, causing heartbreak to communities on every continent. Tropical cyclones caused a terrible human and economic toll, most recently in the French overseas department of Mayotte in the Indian Ocean. Intense heat scorched dozens of countries, with temperatures topping 50 °C on a number of occasions. Wildfires wreaked devastation,” she said.

The increasingly extreme weather underlines the urgency of the Early Warnings for All initiative, which along with supporting climate service development and delivery, is a key part of WMO’s activities to support climate adaptation. On the climate mitigation front, WMO is rolling out the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch initiative, and supporting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and COP.

In 2025, there will be a strong focus on the cryosphere - the frozen parts of the Earth including sea ice, ice sheets, frozen ground - as it is the International Year of Glaciers’ Preservation, facilitated by UNESCO and WMO.



UNESCO and WMO launch the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025

The International Year of Glaciers' Preservation aims to highlight the importance of glaciers and ensure that those relying on them, and those affected by cryospheric processes, receive the necessary hydrological, meteorological, and climate services

UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) have officially launched the 'International Year of Glaciers' Preservation, marking a crucial milestone in global efforts to protect the vital ice that provides freshwater to over 2 billion people. This global and coordinated initiative throughout the year will seek to highlight the critical role of glaciers and address the urgent challenges posed by accelerated glacier melt.

Glaciers are crucial for regulating the global climate and providing freshwater, essential for billions of people



Around 70% of the global freshwater is stored in glaciers and ice sheets. However, these ice formations are rapidly retreating due to climate disruption. Preserving these crucial resources is essential for environmental sustainability, economic stability, and to safeguard cultures and livelihoods.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation to raise awareness of the vital role glaciers, snow, and ice play in the climate system

and water cycle, as well as the far-reaching impacts of rapid glacial melt.

UNESCO and WMO are the lead agencies coordinating these international efforts supported by over 75 international organizations and 35 countries. WMO hosted the launch event at its Geneva headquarters on 21 January, while UNESCO will host celebrations of the very first World Day for Glaciers at its Paris headquarters on 20-21 March. On this occasion, UNESCO will dedicate its World Water Report to the issue of glaciers, with new data on their disappearance and the measures put in place to deal with this challenge.

In a statement, Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General, said: "The preservation of glaciers stands as one of humanity's most urgent challenges. These ancient ice formations are not just frozen water – they are the guardians of our planet's climate history, the source of life for billions, and sacred places for many cultures. Their rapid disappearance is a stark reminder that we must act now."

Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General of WMO, stated: "WMO recently confirmed that 2024 was the warmest year on record and has sounded repeated Red Alerts about the state of our climate, including the retreat of glaciers. In 2023, glaciers suffered the largest mass loss in the five decades of record-keeping. It was the second consecutive year in which all regions in the world



with glaciers reported ice loss. Melting ice and glaciers threaten long-term water security for many millions of people. This international year must be a wake-up call to the world.”

The International Year of Glacier Preservation will focus on several critical areas:

- Expanding global glacier monitoring systems to enhance data collection and analysis
- Developing early warning systems for glacier-related hazards
- Promoting sustainable water resource management in glacier-dependent regions
- Preserving cultural heritage and traditional knowledge related to glacial environments

- Engaging youth in glacier preservation efforts and climate action

“Water towers of the world”

Glaciers supply freshwater to over half of humanity. As they retreat, they are altering water availability and quality downstream, with implications for aquatic ecosystems and sectors including agriculture and hydropower. This is accompanied by short-term challenges of landslides, avalanches, floods, and droughts, as well as a long-term threat to the security of water supplies for billions of people.

As frozen time capsules of the Earth’s past,

Glaciers are retreating at unprecedented rates, reshaping landscapes and the world as we know it



glaciers provide scientists with invaluable data about historical climate patterns, atmospheric composition, and even human activity spanning thousands of years. Their disappearance also results in the loss of unique ecosystems and biodiversity that have evolved in these specialized environments.

For Indigenous Peoples especially, glaciers hold profound cultural and spiritual significance, often considered sacred spaces and the abode of deities. The loss of these ice formations would mean the irreversible disappearance of sites

central to cultural heritage and spiritual practices that have been recognized by UNESCO as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025 will mobilize governments, scientific institutions, private sector organizations, and civil society to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement effective adaptation strategies. Only through collaborative action and increased awareness will these vital resources be preserved for future generations.

Word Scramble

LLABGO

LOAFR
OCALSTA
WELDLFI

SALMPI

TIUSMANON

SESORFT

HIROTOPNCT

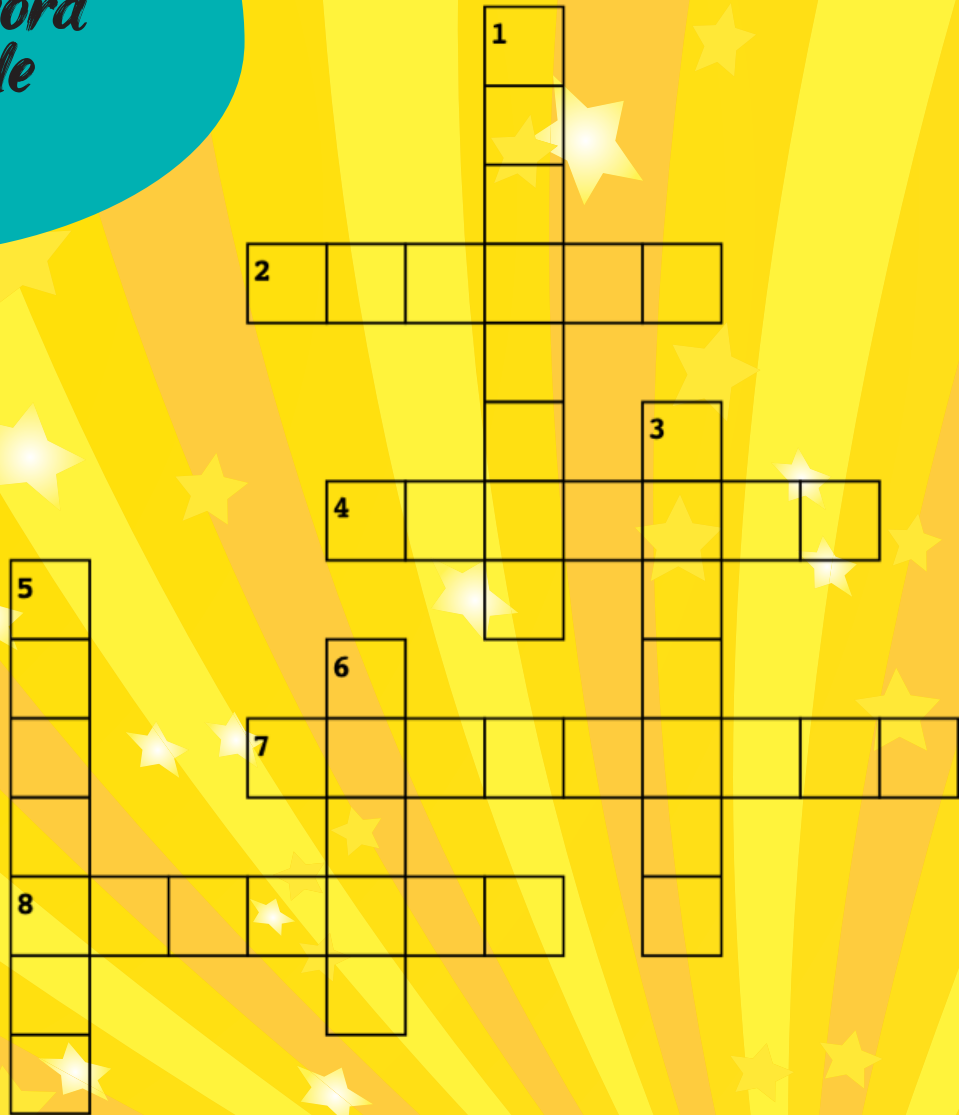
ANSWERS: 1) PLAINS 2) GLOBAL 3) FORESTS 4) WILDLIFE 5) COASTAL 6) FLORA 7) MOUNTAINS 8) PROTECTION

Word Search

E	L	B	A	N	I	A	T	S	U	S	R	N	A
E	G	N	G	Y	T	R	C	O	S	C	M	I	E
R	N	Y	N	Y	R	E	N	E	E	R	G	L	L
S	E	N	L	E	N	O	L	C	U	U	N	O	R
T	S	C	M	O	R	O	M	C	T	S	E	R	A
D	O	T	R	E	R	O	E	I	Y	O	C	E	S
N	C	E	O	T	E	U	T	M	S	C	N	T	S
P	E	E	O	R	O	R	I	O	E	A	E	C	L
L	A	N	S	G	M	G	G	N	N	R	T	R	J
A	N	O	G	C	G	A	E	S	N	A	E	S	U
T	M	B	U	U	N	E	R	O	S	S	G	R	N
E	L	R	A	B	T	R	S	O	N	S	O	N	G
A	S	A	O	E	N	D	A	N	G	E	R	U	L
U	G	C	O	N	S	U	M	E	T	R	A	L	E

- RECYCLE
- MONSOON
- CARBON
- STORM
- JUNGLE
- ENDANGER
- TIGERS
- GREENERY
- SUSTAINABLE
- OCEAN
- PLATEAU
- CONSUME

Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. Enclosure for birds
4. Keep something going
7. Heavy downpour
8. No longer in existence

Down

1. Life form
3. Natural home
5. Area of flat raised land
6. All the animal life in a particular region

ANSWERS: 1) ORGANISM 2) AVIARY 3) HABITAT 4) SUSTAIN 5) PLATEAU 6) FAUNA 7) RAINSTORM 8) EXTINCT

★ WORD OF THE DAY:

CARBON OFFSETTING

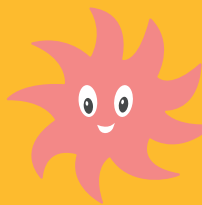
Carbon offsetting is a process that involves a reduction in, or removal of, carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere.

Carbon offsetting generally involves companies paying other entities to reduce carbon emissions that they cannot currently reduce themselves. The company may then count the emissions reductions they have paid for towards their own climate targets.

Any activity that reduces emissions could constitute a carbon offset. This includes projects designed to help reduce future emissions ("mitigation measures") and projects that help soak up carbon dioxide from the air ("removal measures"). Some offsetting project types include:

- **Nature-Based Solutions:** Carbon offsets can be generated through nature's ability to capture or prevent emissions. Common projects include forest conservation and reforestation, as well as initiatives that enhance carbon storage in soils and aquatic ecosystems.
- **Clean Energy Solutions:** Investments in renewable energy, energy efficiency improvements, and the adoption of low-carbon technologies help offset emissions by reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
- **Technological Solutions:** Innovative technologies, such as Direct Air Capture (DAC), extract and store carbon dioxide directly from the atmosphere. While promising, these approaches are still in early stages and not yet as widely implemented as other offsetting methods.

Offsetting projects vary widely by geography. A business can choose to fund domestic projects, or projects in a range of different countries. Businesses often offset their emissions to meet internal targets, but offsetting may also be used to meet legal obligations under certain compliance trading schemes.



WORLD WETLANDS DAY - FEB 2

On 30 August 2021 the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 75/317 that established 2 February as World Wetlands Day. Nearly 90% of the world's wetlands have been degraded since the 1700s, and we are losing wetlands three times faster than forests. They are critically important ecosystems that contribute to biodiversity, climate mitigation and adaptation, freshwater availability, world economies and more.

However, wetlands are the most threatened ecosystem. According to the World Heritage and Ramsar Conventions, 64% of the world's wetlands have disappeared since the beginning of the last century. In most regions across the world, wetlands continue to decline compromising the benefits that wetlands provide to people. According to the Global Wetland Outlook, we lose wetlands three

times faster than natural forests. Therefore, the conservation of wetlands is a vital task of humanity, which can help achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

“Protecting Wetlands for Our Common Future” is the theme for World Wetlands Day 2025 and it is of particular significance as it coincides with the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (COP15). Every three years, representatives of the governments of each of the Contracting Parties meet to facilitate crucial discussions on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and to agree on a work program for the next three years.

FEB
16

WORLD WHALE DAY

World Whale Day is an annual celebration dedicated to one of the largest animals on our planet – whales. Migratory through the oceans these large animals have elegant songs, and lovely dancing skills and are incredibly significant in the balance of the ecosystem. The day is a reminder that much needs to be done to protect the animals and the seas they inhabit in the future.

World Whale Day was first celebrated in 1980 in Maui, Hawaii – the success child of Greg Kauffman who is the founder of the Pacific Whale Foundation. At first, it was solely designed to raise concern about humpback whales swimming near Maui with the Maui Whale Watch but the event has been extended to include all the whales across the globe.

It is also worth knowing that whales are not only interesting marine mammals; they are the keystone of the ocean's balance. Through managing marine ecosystems and participating in nutrient cycling, they assist in supporting life in the marine environment. Unfortunately, these creatures face significant challenges today due to:

- **Pollution:** They are affected by plastics, chemicals, and industrial wastes that



threaten their habitat.

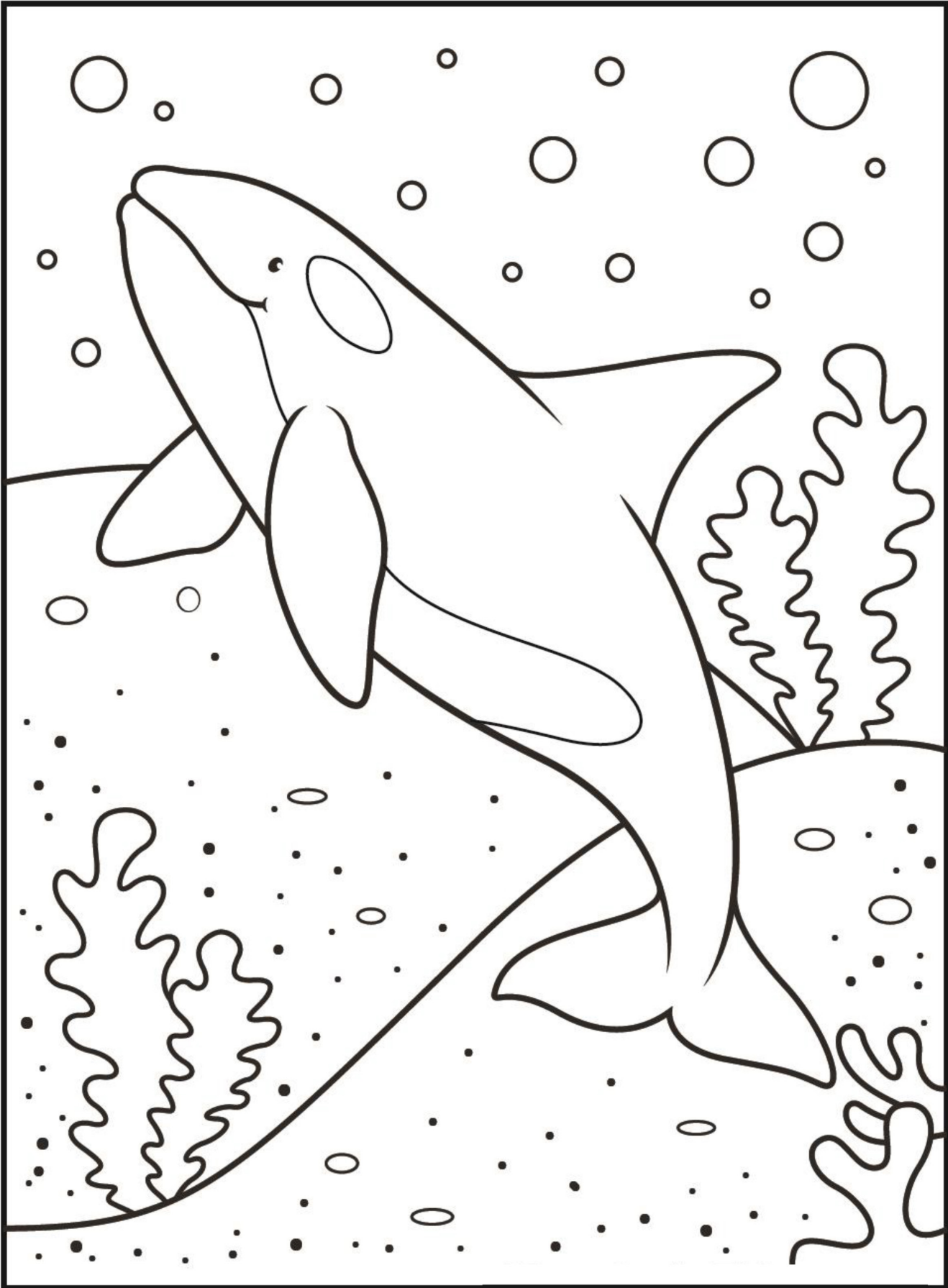
- **Climate Change:** Climate change and global warming affect their source of food and duration of migration.
- **Historical Hunting:** Many species have been hunted down despite regulation, and recovery time can be long when it comes to commercial whaling.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Things to Do...

- Reuse paper _____
- Switch off all plugs when not in use _____
- Grow a plant _____
- Don't waste food _____
- Carry a reusable bag to the market! _____

COLOUR ME!





Bahrain signs renewable energy framework with GFG

RENEWABLES

Bahrain's Electricity and Water Affairs Minister Yasser Humaidan and Gulf Air Group (GFG) chairman Khalid Hussain Taqi have signed a joint framework for renewable energy and energy efficiency, reinforcing the ministry's commitment to implementing Bahrain's National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP).

The framework aims to provide technical support and consultancy from the ministry to GFG for integrating renewable energy solutions and enhancing energy efficiency across its buildings and facilities

Minister Yasser Humaidan commended GFG's efforts in adopting sustainable energy solutions and capacity-building initiatives, underscoring the importance of such collaboration in promoting energy sustainability as part of the government's environmental sustainability vision.

Highlighting the private sector's role in advancing renewable energy objectives and leveraging

opportunities provided by the national renewable energy plan, the minister praised GFG for supporting national efforts to optimise energy use and adopting advanced technologies to achieve its aspirations in this field.

Egypt targets 16GW renewable energy in 2029

Egypt is targeting the production of nearly 16,100 megawatts (MW) from solar and wind projects in 2029 as part of a drive to reduce reliance on conventional power generation and save its hydrocarbon resources.

The country currently produces around 6,600 MW from solar, wind and water projects, and new solar power projects will add around 5,800 MW.

Egypt, the most populated Arab nation, has set a target to expand the share of renewable energy to 42 percent by 2030 and 60 percent by 2040.

UAE empowers farmers to drive sustainable food security through 'Plant the Emirates' Programme

Ministry of Climate Change and the Environment engages young Emirati farmers to promote climate-smart solutions and address future food security challenge

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak, Minister of Climate Change and the Environment (MoCCA), participated in the UAE Farmers Council meeting held in Ras Al Khaimah as part of the ongoing efforts to support UAE farmers in advancing agricultural projects. The meeting explored ways to increase crop productivity and address farmers' needs, in line with the goals of the 'Plant the Emirates' National Programme, which focuses on developing a flexible, climate-smart agricultural sector to bolster sustainable national food security.

The 'Plant the Emirates' National Programme aims to support the UAE's agricultural development strategies, enhance sustainable national food security, foster new partnerships with the private sector, expand green areas across the nation, and ensure long-term sustainability of agriculture in the country.

Dr. Amna bint Abdullah Al Dahak said, "The launch of the 'Plant the Emirates' National Programme



and other initiatives under its umbrella, underscore the UAE's commitment to transforming our support for national farmers. We are deploying training programmes and projects that leverage advanced agricultural technologies to enhance capabilities of farmers, and ensure active community participation in strengthening our agriculture and food sector."

The Council discussed strategies to enhance support for farmers, who outlined their needs. These included assistance with building sustainable agricultural systems, greater access



to training in using modern agricultural practices and pest control, and improved communication with the Ministry and local authorities.

The meeting also explored methods to optimise water use and increase farm productivity, by cultivating specific crop varieties aligned with these goals.

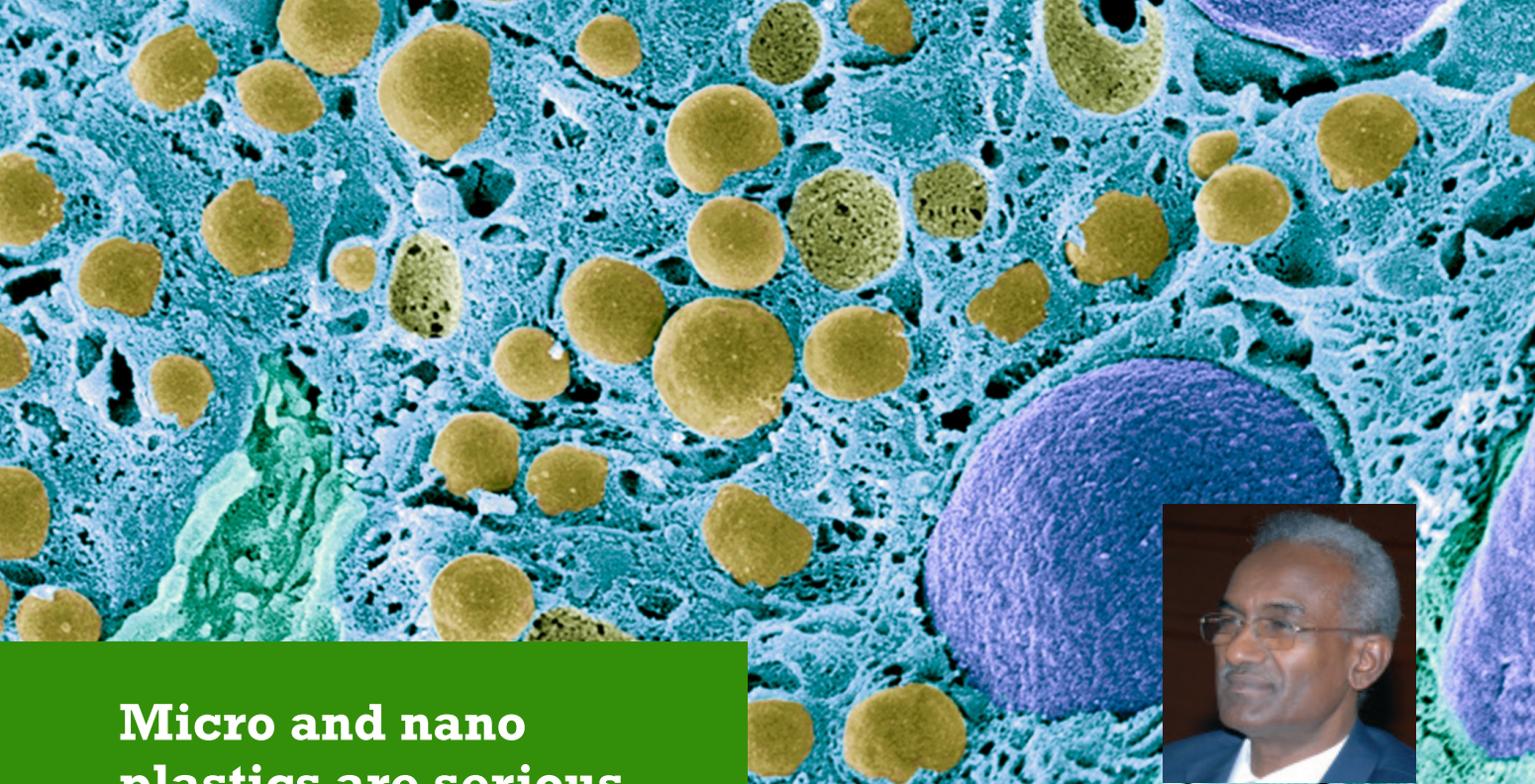
Emphasis on closed farming systems and other advanced technologies aims to overcome resource limitations and reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture

In a separate event, MoCCAIE organised the "Next Generation of Farmers" meeting, bringing together young Emirati farmers to highlight the UAE's vision of promoting modern, sustainable, and climate-smart agricultural solutions. The meeting also sought to identify the needs of young farmers, empower them to expand their projects, and enable them to enhance the UAE's sustainable food security.

During the meeting, Al Dahak said that the UAE is committed to adopting modern, climate-smart agricultural technologies that offer significant advantages, particularly in addressing challenges such as water scarcity and limited arable land. These technologies include closed farming systems that can operate without soil and reduce water consumption by up to 90 percent.

She noted that agriculture is one of the six key sectors where the UAE is seeking to transform and reduce its carbon footprint as part of its efforts to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

The "Next Generation of Farmers" meeting covered several key topics, including modern agricultural technologies and their contributions to food security, environmental protection, and the sustainability of natural resources. In addition to these, the meeting discussed the need for enhanced legislation and regulations to encourage farmers to adopt and expand the deployment of modern farming solutions.



Micro and nano plastics are serious health hazards

Dr. Eisa M. Abdellatif
Chief Technical Advisor
Zayed International Foundation
for the Environment

Microplastic and nano plastic particles are pervasive environmental pollutants with emerging implications for human health. They can readily reach the lungs of humans and animals by direct inhalation and can be ingested in water and food. Many studies have found these plastic particles in bottled water, cow milk, fish meat, processed food, and even human blood in alarming quantities. Additionally, certain cosmetic products, such as exfoliating scrubs, contain plastic microbeads that can be absorbed through the skin.

These particles originate from industrial processes, consumer products, and environmental degradation. Hence, there is a growing concern about their presence in the environment and their potential effects on human health as preliminary findings indicate significant risks associated with exposure to these pollutants.

The health effects of microplastics and nano plastics are not yet fully understood, but emerging studies suggest they may contribute to several health issues. They can induce inflammatory responses, leading to oxidative stress and potential cellular damage. Many plastics contain additives that interfere with hormone regulation. The ingestion of plastic particles may affect the gut microbiota, leading to altered metabolism and digestive disturbances. Nano plastics may penetrate

biological barriers, including the blood-brain barrier, raising concerns about their potential effects on neurological health. Some plastic additives and byproducts have been linked to cancer development, although direct evidence linking microplastic exposure to cancer remains inconclusive. With the increasing evidence of potential health impacts, long-term epidemiological studies and toxicological assessments are crucial for determining safe exposure levels.

Plastic waste is a challenging environmental concern, and 10 million tons reach the seas and oceans every year. Combating plastic pollution requires dedicated educational awareness strategies as a long-term solution while national and international legislation is required to bridge the implementation gaps. We should also aim to cut down plastic consumption substantially. Large amounts of plastics are manufactured and end up as waste without being used or reused. Eliminating single-use plastics for good and manufacturing more reusable and recyclable plastic is critical to cut down plastic waste to less than 30 percent. We also need more efficient technologies for the proper disposal of nonrecyclable plastic waste.

Without concerted efforts to deal with this serious global issue, life on earth is at stake.



Zayed International Prize for the Environment

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Zayed International Foundation for the Environment